

AN ACT concerning

Overhead Transmission Lines

FOR the purpose of providing for the participation of certain state agencies in hearings before the Public Service Commission concerning overhead transmission lines and generally relating to approval of overhead transmission lines.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law  
Section 54A  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1975 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 54A of Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1975 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law

54A.

No electric company may begin the construction in Maryland of a generating station or any overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts, or exercise the right of eminent domain in connection therewith, without having first obtained from the Commission a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of the station or line. UPON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION, THE COMMISSION SHALL NOTIFY ALL INTERESTED PERSONS [[INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF STATE PLANNING, AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE]] THIS WILL INCLUDE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PLANNING WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FORWARDING THE APPLICATION TO APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR REVIEW, EVALUATION AND COMMENT AS TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSAL TO STATE, AREAWIDE AND LOCAL PLANS OR PROGRAMS. The Commission shall hold a public hearing on each application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in the area in which any portion of the construction of a generating station or an overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts is proposed to be located, together with the local governing bodies of each such area, unless any governing body wishes not to participate in the hearing. THE COMMISSION SHALL INSURE PRESENTATION OF THE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INTERESTED STATE AGENCIES AND SHALL PERMIT REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE